

Accessing the Internet

Tutorial #4

How do I access the Internet?

Access to the Internet is achieved through the use of an “Internet browser.”

What is a Browser?

A browser is simply a software program that can read and convert HTML files so that a user can view and read them as they would pages in a book. This application is used to search and view pages on the World Wide Web. In fact, you are using one right now!

- The two most popular browsers are Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox.

Where do I find the Browser?

Most computers arrive with the browser already installed. The browser is located under “Program Files” which can be accessed from the Start menu.

Click on the Start button in the left-hand bottom corner of your computer screen; slide the mouse up to programs. A bar should appear as you slide the mouse. After you have clicked on “Programs,” bring the mouse to the right and click on the browser name. The browser program is usually Internet Explorer or Mozilla FireFox. Others are: Chrome 2, Safari, Opera, Flock, and Google Chrome.

More often than not, there will be shortcut icon for the browser located on the computer's desktop (i.e the screen that appears on your computer when it is turned on). Look for the following images on the desktop and double-click on them.



Note: In most cases than not, the Start menu usually appears at the bottom of the screen, with the Start button positioned in the left-hand corner. The Start menu can be placed anywhere.

The Homepage

When the Internet browser opens, a website will appear. This is called the browser's homepage. Users have the ability to select their own desired homepage; therefore, the first page you see when you open the browser will not be the same on every computer.

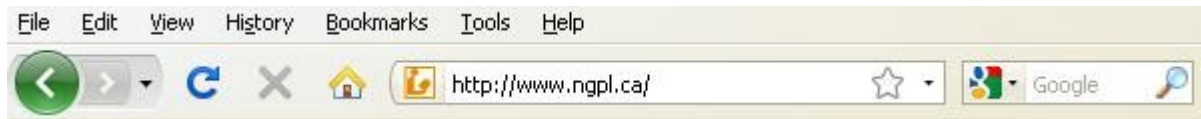
The Toolbars

Located at the top of the browser screen you will find the tool bars. These will look very similar to the tool bars found in a word processing program (i.e Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, and Works). Tool bars contain features (icons) that allow you to move easily from page to page, bookmark frequently visited sites, copy and paste, and perform any number of tasks.

The Address Bar

In addition to the familiar tool bar, you will see a bar with the word “address” followed by a long, white box. It will contain an address starting with the letters “http://” or “www.”. This is called the websites URL. Every website has its own individual address. The URL for the North Grenville Public Library is www.ngpl.ca.

If you want to access a page, you would have to type in the URL address into the address bar. The address (URL) of the page you are looking at is always located in the address bar.



Viewing a Website

To view any website, type its URL into the address bar and hit the “enter” key on the keyboard **(Note: you can usually start typing at the WWW but some browsers may require you to start with http://).**

When you hit “enter” the arrow will change into an hourglass. This lets you know that the browser is locating the website. If you don't know the URL address or if you want to do a research, you will need to perform a search on a search engine.